

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1188

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4388

LIMDIS

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG KU CA

SUBJ: KUWAIT TO SEEK HELP FROM CANADA FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. KUWAIT TIMES REPORTED IN OCT 10 ISSUE THAT GOK WILL SEEK CANADIAN HELP FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. PAPER QUOTED OFFICIAL SOURCES AND NOTED THAT KUWAIT MINISTER ELECTRICITY AND WATER ALGHANIM VISITED CANADA LAST WEEK FOLLOWING HIS ATTENDANCE AT DETROIT ENERGY CONFERENCE. NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT CANADIAN MINISTER OF ENERGY HAS ACCEPTED ALGHANIM'S INVITATION TO VISIT KUWAIT NEXT MONTH.

2. ACCORDING TO KUWAIT TIMES REPORT GOK ASKING CANADIANS TO PROVIDE REQUIRED NUCLEAR REACTORS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR POWER PLANTS HERE. PLANTS WOULD BECOME OPERATIONAL BY 1985 AND WORK WOULD BEGIN IN ABOUT TWO YEARS. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. COMMENT: WE UNABLE VERIFY KUWAIT TIMES STORY AT THIS TIME, AND WE PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS REUTRNS BEFORE ASKING TOO MANY QUESTIONS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE GOK INDICATED
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IT PREFERRED TO COOPERATE WITH US IN NUCLEAR ENERGY MATTER

BUT THAT IF US COOPERATION WAS NOT POSSIBLE IT WOULD LOOK TO OTHERS. GIVEN ALGHANIM'S RECENT VISIT TO CANADA AND CURRENT GOK INTEREST IN NUCLEAR POWER AS ALTERNATIVE TO OIL AND GAS, IT WOULD NOT BE TOO SURPRISING IF GOK DID REQUEST CANADIAN ASSISTANCE. WE HAD EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT GOK WOULD HAVE APPROACHED FRANCE. THEY STILL MAY, AND IT MAY BE THAT GOK WILL EXPLORE QUESTION WITH SEVERAL POTENTIAL WESTERN SOURCES.
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